



Board of School Directors

Responsibilities of School Directors

School districts are governed by locally-elected school directors. Bellingham School District has five directors who are elected for four-year terms. They are responsible to the voters and act under the direction and restriction of state laws. As volunteers, Bellingham School Board members serve without pay. They set general school district policy, select and evaluate the Superintendent, employ personnel upon his recommendations, and adopt and revise the annual operating budget. They are responsible for informing the public of the needs and progress of the educational system.

Responsibilities of the Superintendent

The Superintendent is hired by, and is directly responsible to, the Board of Directors. The Superintendent is responsible for providing effective leadership and securing the best educational opportunities for children. He is responsible for fulfilling the mission of the schools—improving student learning. He provides leadership to obtain and develop quality staff, secure and manage funds and facilities, and encourage and maintain communication between the schools and the public.

School Board Meetings

Regular meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Office, 1306 Dupont Street. Special sessions are occasionally scheduled. These meetings are open to the public and all actions authorized or required by law are taken at these meetings. However, the Board may meet in closed (executive) sessions to discuss matters dealing with personnel, real estate or employee negotiations.

Public participation is a vital part of our school system's success. Visitors are always welcome at meetings. The agenda is prepared in advance by the Superintendent and materials distributed to Board members at least three days prior to the meeting. Agendas and information are posted online for the public and news media. Minutes of regular and special meetings are kept as a matter of public record and are also posted at www.bellinghamschools.org/department/school-board.

Public Participation

The Board President conducts the meeting and may change the order of the agenda, if needed. The President may call upon the Superintendent or other staff members for reports and information. A time toward the beginning of the Board meeting allows for audience participation. Those wishing to address the Board must sign up on the sheet provided at the beginning of the meeting. Individuals may address the Board on agenda items as well as non-agenda items. Speakers will be recognized by the Board President at the time they are to speak.

Each speaker has a maximum of three minutes and may not transfer his or her time to another speaker. No more than 30 minutes is allowed for a single subject, except with the unanimous consent of the Board. The Board President may interrupt or terminate an individual's statement when it is too lengthy, personally directed, irrelevant or abusive. The Board as a whole has the final decision on such matters. The public comment period is a designated time for the Board to listen, not to address or respond to speakers.

Complaints concerning employees or other individuals may not be addressed orally at the meeting. Such complaints must follow administrative procedure. Questions or concerns about instructional practices or materials should be directed to the Superintendent for appropriate referral.

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Board of Directors



Kelly M. Bashaw

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Elected to the School Board in 2007 and re-elected in 2011, Kelly Bashaw earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Tulsa. She works as an educational planner, financial aid advisor and grant coordinator at Whatcom Community College. Bashaw has lived in Bellingham since 1994 and has two children who have attended district schools.



Camille Diaz Hackler

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Camille Diaz Hackler was elected to the School Board in November 2011. She graduated from Bellingham High School, Whatcom Community College and Western Washington University. Hackler and her husband have two sons who attended Bellingham Public Schools. She is currently employed by a local small business.



Kenneth B. Gass

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dr. Ken Gass was appointed to the School Board in 1998, elected in 1999, and re-elected in 2003, 2007 and 2011. He graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, and received his doctorate and M.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. He and his wife have lived in Bellingham since 1977 and have two children. Both children are district graduates. Dr. Gass is a pediatrician with PeaceHealth Medical Group.



Steven H. Smith

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Elected to the School Board in 2009, Dr. Steve Smith earned his doctorate in accounting from Arizona State University, master's degree from Oklahoma State University and bachelor's from Iowa State University. He is an accounting instructor at Western Washington University. Dr. Smith, his wife and children moved to Bellingham in 2000. They have two children, both district graduates.



Scott Stockburger

SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Dr. Scott Stockburger, a family physician in Bellingham, was elected to the Board in 2009. He received his bachelor's degree from Hampshire College and his medical degree from the University of Arkansas. Dr. Stockburger and his wife have two daughters who attend Bellingham Public Schools.

Listening Post

The School Board is interested in hearing your positive feedback and concerns. To submit comments, please visit www.bellinghamschools.org. See "Board" and select "Listening Post."



Greg Baker

SUPERINTENDENT *of* SCHOOLS

Dr. Greg Baker became Superintendent of Bellingham Public Schools in July 2010. Dr. Baker came to Bellingham from Portland, Oregon where he served as a deputy superintendent. He has also served as an intern and special assistant to the superintendent of Boston Public Schools and as an administrator for Spokane Public Schools. He began his career in Alaska as a teacher and assistant coach. Dr. Baker received his doctorate from Harvard University; a master's degree in administration, planning and social policy from Harvard University; and a master's degree in secondary education from Western Washington University. He earned his bachelor's degree with distinction from Gonzaga University. He and his wife live in Bellingham with their three young children. The school-age children attend school in the district.